THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to introduce a superfast train between New Delhi and Visakhapatnam on account of paucity of resources such as coaches, Diesel Locomotives, line capacity and terminal facilities.

Sugar factories in Maharashtra

*258. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories operating in the private and Co-operative sectors, respectively in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of those operating in the backward regions of Konkan, Vidarbha and Marathwada;

(c) what is the number of applications pending for setting up of new sugar factories in the co-operative sector in Maharashtra;

(d) whether any of these applications pertain to the backward regions stated in part (b) above; and

(e) whether the Central Government proposes to help those backward regions to set up more sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) There are 80 installed sugar factories in Maharashtra, 11 in the Private Secter and 69 in Co-operative Sector.

(b) There are a certain number of districts in Maharashtra which have been officially declared backward by the Government of India, some of which lie in the backward regions of Konkan, Vidarbha and Marathwada also. There are 22 installed sugar factories in the various backward districts of Maharashtra.

(c) There are 13 pending applications for setting up new sugar factories in Cooperative sectors from the various districts in Maharashtra.

(d) Some of the applications pertain to the notified backward districts of Maharashtra State.

(e) Subject to the economic feasibility and availability of adequate sugarcane, the Central Government would like to give priority for setting up new sugar factories in backward regions as sugar factories tend to act as powerful rural growth centre.

Completion of Masani Bandh in Haryana

*259. SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated cost of Masani Bandh on Saibi Nadi near Rewari in Haryana;

(b) whether the expenditure on this Bandh has now increased disproportionately;

(c) what is the amount of money which has been spent so far, the progress made in completing the Bandh and the area of the land irrigated in 1983-84 from the waters of the Bandh; and

(d) what arrangements Government have made to desilt the bandh areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The State Government has reported that the earlier estimated cost of Rs. 35.96 crores for the Masani Barrage has increased to about Rs. 56 crores due to abnormal increase in land rates, price index and labour rates etc.

(c) the State Government has reported that the expenditure incurred on the work upto June 1984 is Rs. 27 crores and the progress of works as under:—